APPLIED VOICE

SPRING SEMESTER 2014

SIMSON STUDIO

713-348-2835

303-915-4583 - cell

Julie.Simson@rice.edu

1. It is required that you practice each and every day. I would encourage you to set aside time on your schedule and stick to it. You will see great progress this way. The way I like to work is for you to guide your lesson structure. I will select repertoire for you and you should plan to bring in to each lesson what you have prepared with your accompanist. **Be prepared to speak the text and give a poetic translation before you begin singing**. Gauge your time wisely, do not repeat rep. too often and sing pieces from memory regularly.

2. It is strongly recommended that you incorporate an aerobic activity in your daily life. You will see a big difference in your energy and stress level. Mental and emotional health is also important. Please use the university resources available to you as well.

3. The School provides recording equipment for your use. Please make sure you bring a micro SD card to every lesson. Most or all of your lessons should be both audio and video. **Keep a journal of your recorded lessons and speak about observations regularly**. Keep your first lesson recording of each semester for a progress report later in the year.

4. An accompanist is provided for the last half-hour of your lesson per week. You should also work with them outside the lesson time to prepare your repertoire together prior to the lesson. Ideally, this person should play for you whenever you perform. You should work with your accompanist no less than one hour per week. You should bring your accompanist ASAP, but no later than your second lesson of any semester.

5. On Friday from 3 - 5pm., the department sets aside time for performance practice. This is a chance for students in my studio to perform for each other, have technique classes or performance exercises. PLEASE BRING MUSIC TO PERFORM EVERY FRIDAY AND BE WARMED UP, DRESSED UP (really look nice, you sing and feel differently) ENTHUSIASTIC AND READY TO SING!!!!!!! **Performance class is required, more than one unexcused absence will lower your grade by one letter. Please email or call me if you must be absent.**

6. Every lesson will be graded; you may ask your grade at any time. Please call or email as early as possible if you cannot attend a lesson, a message can be left 24 hours a day at my cell phone #**303-915-4583** and my email address **Julie.simson@rice.edu** only then will it be made up, providing it is a legitimate excuse. **More than one unexcused lesson or performance class will lower the grade by one letter.**

Guidelines for receiving a grade per lesson and for the course:

A = superior/excellent – your voice is warmed up and ready to vocalize; repertoire requirements were exceeded well in advance of the jury or recital preview; lesson preparation is thorough, at least two songs are ready per lesson; Recording device is ready for each lesson: performance class participation is weekly, and contribution to in-class comments are frequent and thoughtful, attitude for lessons is positive, enthusiastic and energetic.

B = good/better than average – your voice is warmed up and ready to vocalize; repertoire requirements are met in advance of the jury or recital preview; lesson preparation is thorough, at least one song is ready per lesson; Recording device is ready for each lesson; performance class participation is twice a month and contribution to in-class discussion is regular and thoughtful, attitude for lessons is positive, enthusiastic and energetic.

B- = below average – repertoire requirements are barely met in time for the jury or preview; lesson preparation is unprepared or music forgotten, Recording device is forgotten; performance class participation is sporadic and in-class discussion is mute, attitude for lessons is tired, unrested, uninterested and/or unengaged. No more than 2 grades of B- are grounds for expulsion.

C, D, F = failing – none of the above requirements are met and the student should consider another degree path. The student will know well in advance if any of these grades would be given.

7. The repertoire guidelines are based on the voice department requirements FR- 6 songs; Soph. – 8 songs; Jr-Sr. – 8 songs; MM recital repertoire. Junior recital is 45 mins of music; Senior recital is 50 mins. of music; MM-1 is 50 mins.; MM-2 is 55 mins of music. You should consider this a **minimum** of performable repertoire, i.e. you should choose your jury repertoire from a larger memorized list of songs. You should sing a song from memory for me during your lesson at least every other week. Each person will choose a portion of their own repertoire each semester, FR. 1-2 songs, Soph. 2-3 songs, JR. 3-4 songs, Sr. One group of their recital, Grad. 2-3 groups. Please use this as a guideline; you may want to choose more repertoire on your own. I reserve final say on public performance of all repertoire. I also need to hear any other music you are performing in a given semester. If you are in an opera or scene, have a solo with the choir, or other important performances, I need to hear that repertoire as well before you perform it. **ALL MUSIC WILL BE PURCHASED, NO PHOTOCOPIES WITHOUT ORIGINALS!!**

8. Every student in my studio is required to take a jury or mock jury every semester. A mock jury will be during your last lesson of the semester and will be just like a regular jury. Exemptions to taking a regular jury are: a leading opera role or an upcoming recital. Each opera role will be evaluated to determine whether or not it is large enough to hinder your successful completion of the repertoire requirements. At the end of the semester, please come and meet with me after your jury to discuss your final grade. I prefer to meet with you the day after juries are over. **Voice juries are 4/18/14 – 3:00 – 4:30pm.**

9. Many of you have been or will request letters of recommendation for various auditions/jobs/etc. Please give me as much notice as possible, **but not less than 10 days**. I prefer to write individual letters for each application, sent directly to the requester. I believe it is a stronger letter and carries far more weight. This takes me more time, but will be more beneficial to you in the long run. I also believe it is my job to write these letters, so do not hesitate to ask, BUT PLEASE WELL IN ADVANCE OF A DEADLINE. E-mail the exact information and deadline.

10. Each student preparing a recital will be given a recital contract, which is a timeline towards an enjoyable and successful recital (see below).

PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE GUIDELINES; I MUST SEE YOUR PROGRAM AND TRANSLATIONS PRIOR TO THE RECITAL PREVIEW, WHICH IS THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE RECITAL. POSTPONED RECITALS DUE TO LACK OF PREPARATION WILL RESULT IN A LOWERED GRADE!

11. Advising: I am your advisor for all scheduling and course work. Advising should be done during an arranged time.

12. Please attend as many recitals as possible, there are lots this semester (see below).

13. This is a participation class; therefore these basic qualities are an integral part of the grading process: **ATTENDANCE; ATTITUDE; PREPARATION**

Applied voice should be considered the most vital part of your curriculum, since it is one of the few courses, which are taught on a one-to-one basis. If approached with the above positive qualities, you should experience some of the most exciting personal growth of your life. Any questions or problems, PLEASE talk to me. I am here to help you in learning process.

SIMSON RECITAL CONTRACT

PLEASE USE THIS FORM AS A GUIDELINE TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL RECITAL

RECITAL DATE: _____

PREVIEW DATE (three weeks prior to recital on a Friday between 9am and 1pm in Duncan, schedule this with Karen Reeves)_____

Program Notes and Translations: _____

Memorization Date: _____

****RECITALS POSTPONED DUE TO LACK OF PREPARATION, WILL RESULT IN A LOWERED IN GRADE****

Simson Studio Performance Class
Spring 2014
1/24 – Simson Master Class – Matt, Kate, Crissy, Teresa
1/31 – Christina, Danielle, and Crissy recital groups, Anna
2/7 – Christina, Crissy, Emily, Matt, Teresa, Danielle
2/14 – Danielle, Crissy, Emily, Kate, Anna
2/21 – Emily – duet, trio, Anna, Kate, Christian
2/28 – Anna, Kate, Emily?, Christian
3/14 – Emily, Christian, Anna, Kate
3/21 – Christian, Teresa, Matt, others?
3/28 – Teresa, Matt, others
4/11 – Teresa, Matt, others
4/18 – juries
4/25 – Graduating students may sing whatever they wish – Kate, Teresa, Crissy!!

Primary Listening Assignment:
We will have a listening party soon. Each of you should give a presentation of one/two singers from your 5. Brief bio, why you selected this piece and why you admire this singer.

Voice Recitals this semester
1/17 – Frederick Ballentine – 8pm
1/23 – Fac. Recital – T. Jaber & Lara Nie – 8pm
1/24 – Opera Scenes – 5:30pm
1/25 – Opera Scenes – 7:30pm
2/8 – Christina Pezzarossi - 5:30pm
2/15 – Abigail Lindig – 3pm
2/15 – Danielle Lombardi – 8pm
2/16 – Kaitlyn Johnson – 5:30pm
2/16 – Christina Arroyo – 8pm
2/17 – Nicholas Brownlee – 8pm
2/18 – B. Paver Class Recital – 8pm
2/21 – Cristine Curzon – 5:30pm
3/22 – Arielle Carrara – 5:30pm
2/23 – Rice Chorale – 4pm
Spring Break
3/16 – Emily Moses – 5:30pm
3/28,30, 4/1 – Albert Herring
4/13 – Kate Smith – 8pm
4/16 – Chabrelle Williams – La voix humane – 6:30
4/17 – Opera Scenes – 5:30pm
4/18 – Rafael Moras – 12noon
4/18 – Juries – 3:00-4:30pm
4/19 – Anna Engländer – 8pm
4/21 – Christian Sanders – 8pm
4/25 - Allegra De Vita – 12noon
4/25 – Teresa Procter – 5:30pm